Oving and District News

Winter 2022/23



Photo credit - Rod Hague

Colworth Drayton Merston Oving Shopwyke

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Editor's note



Hello and welcome to the (slightly delayed) Winter edition of the Oving & District News.

I'm Mandy McPhail, the new editor of ODN, and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to work on the magazine having enjoying it for over 11 years. We moved into Oving parish in 2011 and were so pleased to find it such a welcoming and vibrant community. There are so many opportunities to get involved, make a difference and meet people. There's sure to be something that fits you. You may have an interest in a particular event, for example Scarecrow day, or the Christmas Fayre, even if it's just for an hour or so. The more people who get involved, the easier it is for everyone… and it's a great way to get to know people and feel part of the community.

A big thank you for the ongoing support of Paul O'Shea (Finance) and all the volunteers who diligently deliver your magazine - this is very much a team effort! With thanks to Sophie Compton for the helpful handover and very best wishes to her for the last year of her degree!

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and that the weather has dried up a bit by the time this magazine goes out! We're all looking forward to some sunshine.

With best wishes to all, *Mandy*

Provisional Deadlines for 2023 Editions

Spring: Sat 11th March - **Summe**r: Sat 1st July - **Winter**: Sat 11th November

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ARTICLES

Do you have something you'd like to share with the parish?

If you'd like to contribute an occasional or regular article for the magazine, please get in touch. We'd be particularly interested in content from Shopwyke!

This is YOUR magazine and contributions are most welcome.



ADVERTISING

Would you like to advertise in the 2023 editions of the Oving & District News?

There are three editions a year. Please get in touch to be advised of the new price list with an option to be included.

Please email: ovingdistrictnews@outlook.com

Parish Council News

Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you are well and coping with our very varied weather.

Firstly, I would like to welcome our two new Parish Councillors from Shopwyke, Katie Akerman and Jeremy Matcham. Katie has already been doing a significant amount of work on the draft Oving Neighbourhood Plan and Jeremy has been a regular contributor to a variety of issues within the parish and therefore supporting residents for several years.

We were sad that Gareth, one of our Community Wardens, has now left the post and would like to wish him all the best in his new role. We would also like to thank him for his years supporting our communities. We are also very happy that Dawn is continuing all the excellent work as our remaining Community Warden.

Given the cost-of-living crisis that is ever present at the moment please do pass on the details below to anyone, or any business, who may be in need of advice or assistance.

https://www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign

The Parish Council saw significant opposition to the proposed on-street Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Highfield Lane as it would remove four parking spaces for anyone not charging their EV. Oving Parish Council has objected to this proposal as Highfield Lane is already a challenge for both resident and visitor parking. We are currently investigating the possibility of charging points at the Jubilee Hall.

The Chichester Local Plan review is hopefully going back out to consultation in the spring so look out for the next consultation as it is such a critical document for controlling development in our area.

For those who are suffering with squirrel populations please contact me and I will put you in touch with a resident's group.

We have been advised that in spring 2023 there will be a major consultation on changes to the A259. This will be a significant consultation impacting all users of the A259 and surrounding roads so please do look out for it and send in your comments.

Please would any users of the new junction onto the A27 from Longacres Way report any near misses and issues to https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk/ and copy in your clerk at clerk@ovingcommuniy.org.uk.

Parish Council News

The Speedwatch group is expanding and will hopefully soon be able to look at new locations to capture people speeding which will be followed up in writing. If you would like to help, please follow the link below.

1. Firstly type **https://www.communityspeedwatch.org** into a web browser.
2. Click on the **[Register]** tab.
3. Then to the left, click on **[Join Existing Group]**.
4. Choose **[Sussex]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
5. Choose **[Chichester]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
6. Now choose **[Chichester Shopwyke Speedwatch Group]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
7. Finally complete their details in the registration form and follow the emailed instructions.

I would like to thank everyone for all their varied support to others in the community.

And finally I would like to welcome all the new members of our community who have recently moved into the Parish.

Rod Hague
Oving Parish Council Chair

Useful Community Resources

Oving Community Website: https://www.ovingcommunity.org.uk/

Website includes link to sign up to occasional **Oving Parish News Alerts** emails

"Oving Community Group (West Sussex)" - Private Facebook Group for Oving

"Shopwyke Lakes Community Page" - Private Shopwyke Lakes Group

"Oving Community - West Sussex" - Public Facebook page for Oving Parish

"Oving Jubilee Hall" - Public Facebook page for Oving Jubilee Hall

"Oving Community Garden" - Public page for Oving Community Garden

"St Andrew's, Oving" - Public page for St Andrew's Church

"Oving Scarecrows" - Public page for Oving Scarecrows

WhatsApp - "Oving News Group" - contact annemariedutchy@gmail.com or 07810 128245

What's missing? Please get in touch to have something added!



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Oving Neighbourhood Plan

In my report about a year ago I predicted we would consult residents and other interested parties on the draft plan in the spring. That was optimistic.

We were advised by Chichester District Council and our consultants that before going to the Reg 14 stage of the neighbourhood plan which involves a formal six week consultation we should test the waters with a more informal exercise to give residents a chance to comment.

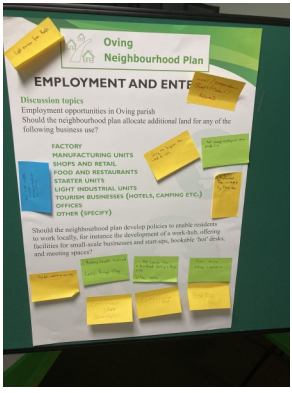
This we did in October/ early November. There were open days at the Jubilee Hall for the southern part of the parish and at the Glenmore Business Park for the Shopwyke community. We advertised the events widely with banners, a leaflet drop, social media and on the website. We were very grateful for the help we got from Anne-Marie Eastwood and members of her village hall committee at the Oving event and from the management at Flip Out.

We had a good response. See the report at https://ovingcommunity.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/home/testing-the-waters/interim-report-17-november-2022/

Almost 90 residents attended the Open Days and 40 submitted feedback forms. There was good support for the plan in general and there were a number of constructive suggestions for change. More affordable housing, more protection for trees, no HGVs on unclassified roads, manned work hubs to encourage small business, modern materials for building, solar panels and a clean energy policy. These and other changes have been made to the policies.

The next stage is, with the help of advisers, to produce an assessment of what impact the plan policies will have on the environment and wildlife habitats. Once this is completed in April/ May further changes may be needed to the plan.

It's at this point that we will do the Reg 14 consultation, involving not only residents but also landowners, developers and statutory consultees such as the county council and adjacent parishes. It will be conducted much like the testing the waters exercise and give you a second chance to make your voice heard.



Having got ahead of myself the first time I am wary of giving a forecast of when this might take place. Suffice to say you will get good notice.

Stephen Quigley,
Chairman ONP Steering Group January 2023

Latest News from St Wilfrid's Hospice
January 2023

A huge thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported St Wilfrid's Hospice during our 35th anniversary year. It was a great year of celebration, and our Double the Difference campaign raised over £305,000 for hospice care. That amazing amount raised could fund expert care for patients in their own homes from three of our Clinical Nurse Specialists for a year, PLUS fund the cost of caring for all the patients staying on our 14-room inpatient unit for over two weeks.

The Moonlight Walk – Early bird tickets available now!

We are excited to announce that our Moonlight Walk is returning on Saturday 17th June 2023. With a slightly earlier start time of 8pm, we will set out to walk in memory of our loved ones under a beautiful sunset, and will walk back under moonlight.

We are happy to be offering £10 adult tickets, £5 youth tickets and £25 family tickets as an early bird offer until the end of February. These will go up to £18, £12 and £45 in March, so make sure you don't miss out! stwh.co.uk/moonlightwalk

Make a Will Fortnight

Did you know that 54% of adults haven't written a Will?

Make a Will Fortnight returns for 2023 from 20th February – 3rd March. Local solicitors are generously donating their time for appointments to make or amend your Will. In return we hope you'll be inspired to make a donation to fund hospice care in your community.

Make 2023 the year to sort out your Will. stwh.co.uk/MAWF

Make 2023 a sustainable year

Why not shop local and second-hand this year? Our 12 retail shops are full of pre-loved hidden treasures that are waiting to be discovered!

Are you planning a clear out this new year? Why not reduce landfill and support a charitable cause by donating your goods to our shops. We are always on the look out for furniture, clothes and bric-a-brac that's in a saleable and clean condition that we can sell to raise vital funds for hospice care. stwh.co.uk/shop

Could you volunteer in 2023?

Would you like to make new friends, learn invaluable skills and discover new passions whilst doing something amazing for local lives this year?

We are always searching for more volunteers to help us with our services, from shop retail assistants to marshals for our events, like our Moonlight Walk.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email volunteers.office@stwh.co.uk

From Simon Oakley

Our WSCC/CDC Councillor



As I write this, in late December, CDC is working to put its Local Plan Review before Full Council on 24th January. This depends on sufficiently progressing the necessary evidence and assessments to provide confidence that it is sound enough to be submitted. The A27 Chichester by-pass's capacity (and what can be viably done with it using developer contributions) has been the main constraint on the level of housing development to be planned for and has extended the whole process. Should recent Government announcements regarding local planning come into effect, CDC's Local Plan may have a more benign examination environment to navigate.

WSCC has engaged Connected Kerb to deliver electric vehicle charging points across the County, both on street and in other public places. However the responses to the recent Traffic Regulation Order consultation on installing EV charging points on Highfield Lane in Oving village are an example of the issues that are going to be increasingly encountered as the UK's private vehicle fleet transitions to non-fossil fuel means of power, particularly with regards on street EV vehicle charging capacity. Balancing ambitions with practicalities as this transition progresses will be a challenge, especially on roads and estates not designed for current levels and types of car ownership and home basing of works vehicles.

Littering is not just unsightly, its accumulation also creates real problems. Lining drains, ditches and verges with rubbish reduces their ability to absorb and convey water. In dry weather this waste can start, and provides fuel for, wildfires (adding chemicals to the smoke). As it breaks down it pollutes the environment. Much of what is carelessly and selfishly dumped could be recycled and costs a lot to clear.

CDC's "Supporting You" campaign continues to provide a wide range of advice, information and support (www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign), as does WSCC's Community Hub (0330 222 7980). These services also provide info on accessing the Household Support Fund. We can all play our part in ensuring those we know are in real need are informed of the many assistance programmes and services that are available.

Simon Oakley 28 December 2022

70's 80's & 90's music!!



Oving's
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Jan 21st 2023
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For Tickets please call 07891741701 or 07889265923
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Cash Bar



Oving Scarecrow Day 2023 Saturday 13 May

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our stall at the Christmas Fayre in the Jubilee Hall in December. For anyone who keeps a note of these things, there were 55 jelly babies in one jar and 441 smarties in the other. Both guessed very accurately indeed! Well done to all those who had a try. It was lovely to meet you and talk to some people who hadn't heard of Oving Scarecrow Day. Can this be true? In which case, it's the best kept secret, for the best ever family day out (that doesn't cost a fortune)!

We have started planning next year's event and we look forward to seeing your scarecrow entries on the day. We will be starting to contact stall holders and entertainers soon, so if you would like a stall, or know someone who would like to join us, please get in touch. We do not make a charge to our stall holders. If you sing with or without a group, play an instrument, dance, act, and would like to share your talent, please get in touch.

A plea……We do need someone to take over looking after our website. Nick Brown has looked after it for many years and now really wants to hand it over to someone with the expertise to build on what he has started. Please can you help, or know someone who can? For a person who doesn't like meetings, this is the job for you! We will send you the information to upload, make look pretty, etc. Of course, if you'd like to come to any meetings, you would be welcome, but it's not necessary. Nick is around as well to do a handover. Please do get in touch, we really do need someone this year.

Some new ideas floating about are awarding a Turnip Prize, more of which later, and maybe holding a Scarecrow Yard Trail Sale on the Sunday of the weekend. So, being very selfish here, it means that all of us who have been working in the hall, or Church or Madam Green Farm, can get a chance to see all the scarecrows too! And maybe you can get a chance to de-clutter the shed and offload some no longer loved items, and try not to let the children buy someone else's unloved items!

Facebook page: Oving Scarecrows
www.ovingscarecrows.org
Email: ovingscarecrows111@sky.com



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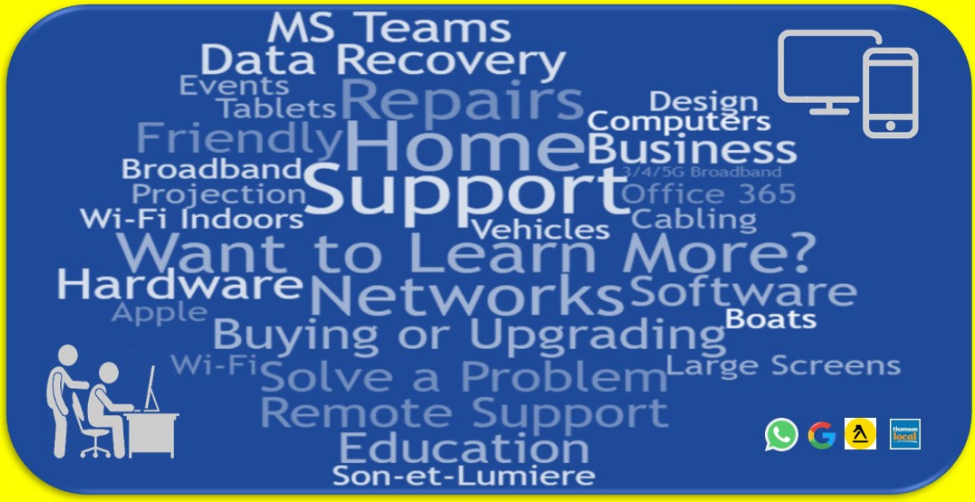
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The Phoenix Art Group is a group of amateurs and professionals that meet on Monday mornings at the Jubilee Hall. There are three sessions a year of about 12 weeks. We are a happy, laughing group willing to help if someone needs it. We start each session with a theme then branch out or do our own thing. Besides painting we have done printing and portraits but are always looking to try something new.

It doesn't matter if you have never tried art before. We have members who hadn't before joining but who really enjoy coming each Monday and learning.

We have a few members from the village but would like more. If you are interested come and meet us one Monday 9.30 – 12.30. Our new session starts on 16th January to 3rd April 2023. The summer session will start on 17th April to 10th July 2023.

Barbara Cotton is our organiser and her number is **01243 266193**.

Dear friends,
Thank you all for your Christmas cards and good wishes. This year again, instead of cards we have donated to our chosen charity (RNLI).

Best wishes for 2023,

Annie and Stephen Bennett




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FILM REVIEW by ANNIE BENNETT

THE WONDER directed by SEBASTIEN LELIO

In cinemas and on Netflix

The film opens in a modern-day film lot, the camera panning within a vast warehouse consisting of half constructed rooms open on the camera side. "We are nothing without stories" an unseen narrator tells us, "So we invite you to believe in this one." The notion of fact and fiction cleverly delivered as the camera shot moves in closer to the set, which reveals Florence Pugh, in costume, as Lib Wright an English nurse in the 1860's, aboard a ship heading for Ireland.

This strange, mesmeric film, based on a book by Emma Donohue (who wrote the award-winning Room) has Lib setting out on an unusual assignment in the depths of rural Ireland, to ascertain whether a young girl, Anna, who claims to have not eaten for 4 months apart from "Manna from Heaven" is telling the truth.

Pugh's Lib is a firm believer in science and the impossibility of the girl's family's claim. She immediately comes up against staunch resistance within the community and the girl's family. The priest played by Ciaran Hinds views the girl as chosen by God, and even the local Doctor (Toby Jones) wonders whether she could be taking in sustenance from nature. All this infuriates Lib, who by initial examination, proves the girl is well, then must spend day and night with her for a month to prove one way or the other what is happening. She shares her vigil with a nun, and they split the day and night between them. They daily report back to the village dignitaries who are responsible for bringing Lib to the village. There appears to also be a side-line, perpetrated by the village, of people from the area visiting the "chosen child" and making donations to the "poor box"

The film is inspired by a Victorian era "fasting girls" phenomenon, whereby claims of being sustained by God became "popular". Tom Burke plays a journalist dispatched from London to unequivocally prove the girl to be a fraud. He and Lib team up in more ways than one.

Any further comment would ruin the film for you. Suffice to say, there is some resolution and some form of closure.

It is a stark, slow burn thriller, with tremendous acting from all the cast. Florence Pugh though stands out as a truly extraordinary actress, able to command the screen be it with looks, striding the blasted Irish heath, eating and vulnerability.

Fact and Fiction, Science and Religion, Film and Real Life. You choose.

To all the readers of this Newsletter, Tangmere Military Aviation Museum sends warmest greetings for a great 2023.

TANGMERE
Military Aviation Museum

Since the close down at the beginning of December engineers and staff have been hard at work to ensure a wonderful visit when you next come to see us. The Museum continues to aim at promoting public awareness of the United Kingdom's military aviation heritage, educating present and future generations in military aviation.

In September the Museum hosted an exhibition marking the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Museum which serves as a memorial to airmen and airwomen who gave their lives in the service of this country. The Museum is now managed and run entirely by volunteers.

On May 1st we commemorated Falklands Day with pilots from that conflict coming to the Museum. The Museum has in its aircraft inventory a Sea Harrier that took part in the conflict. In a short service it was dedicated to Gordy Batt, who had flown the aircraft, but had died during the taking back of the Falkland Islands.

This year there will be many more events. But you don't need an event for the community to come on over, meet the volunteers and check out our many exhibits

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THE FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OVING

Coming to the end of another successful fund raising year, we have been able to support the Church in the following ways:
Phase two of the heating project providing 4 more electric plinth heaters. Continued funding for the grass cutting of the Churchyard throughout the year. Spring cleaning of the Church on several occasions and providing plants to decorate the Church at Christmas.

The year 2022 saw us organise in conjunction with the Jubilee Village Hall a very successful Race Night in April. An equally popular Quiz night in Oct and a combined Christmas Fayre along with the Jubilee Hall and the PCC in December just gone.

Our next fund raiser is the new and exciting **BURLESQUE EVENING ON SAT 4TH MARCH 2023** jointly with and at the Jubilee Village Hall.

Thank you to everyone that has supported the Friends over the past year to help make the Church a welcoming peaceful place to visit and worship.

Happy New Year!

Lynda Sayer (Chairman, Friends of St. Andrew's Church Oving)

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OVING COMMUNITY EVENTS 2023

We have had some lovely and well attended events in the Village during 2022 and I thought it would be good to have a list of upcoming 2023 events which are currently being planned by various groups. So put them in your calendar and make sure you keep an eye on the WhatsApp Oving News Group; the Oving Community Facebook page and Oving Jubilee Hall Facebook page for details about tickets nearer the time and any other events which might be going to happen.

If anybody would like to organise something there are months where we have nothing to go to!

Eileen Saunders

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	WHERE	ORGANISER
January	Saturday 21st	70s/80s/90s Disco	Jubilee Hall	St Andrew's Church
February				
March	Saturday 4th Sunday 19th	Vintage & Burlesque Evening Wedding Fayre	Jubilee Hall Jubilee Hall	OJH & Friends of St Andrew's OJH Mgt Committee
April				
May	Wednesday 10th Saturday 13th Sunday 14th Thursday 18th	OJH AGM Scarecrow Weekend events OPC AGM	Jubilee Hall Whole Village Jubilee Hall	OJH Mgt Committee Scarecrow Committee Oving Parish Council
June	Saturday 24th	Summer BBQ	TBC	St Andrew's Church
July				
August				
September				
October	Saturday 28th	Village Halloween Party	Jubilee Hall	OJH Mgt Committee
November				
December	Saturday 2nd	Christmas Fayre	Jubilee Hall	OJH & St Andrew's Church

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From our Community Warden

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. The winter months are upon us and can seem to drag on with very long dark nights. As I write this it's windy, raining and the sky is so grey. I know we are all worried about heating our homes with the massive hikes in fuel bills. Chichester District Council has produced a 'Supporting You' leaflet which covers topics such as tips for saving money on your energy bills, Support for the Vulnerable, help with Finances and phone numbers and links for agencies that can help with the topics I've mentioned. You can access the leaflet online https://www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign or phone Chichester District Council: 01243 785166 or contact me directly and I can drop a leaflet off to you (see below).

Chichester District Council now have a free app that can be downloaded to your phone. I have set mine up to remind me which bin gets collected on which day, this has proved very useful, especially over the Christmas period. No more watching to see which bin my neighbours have put out!

The UK Harvest pop-up pantry at Oving Jubilee hall is proving very popular and will start up again after the Christmas break on Tuesday 10th January 10 – 11am but if you go along earlier you can collect a ticket (everyone gets a raffle ticket as they arrive, so it is a fair system to go up and choose your food in turn) and get a cuppa if you wish, this is also for a donation. Not only can you pick up a good selection of food staples for a suggested donation of £3.50, please bring your own bag, but you can also stay and enjoy a cuppa and a chat. It is a very welcoming place and people have made new friends which is what the pop-up café is all about. The pop-up pantry happens on alternate Tuesday in Oving and Tangmere, Tangmere is held in the Village Centre.

The Oving Parish Community Watch Lunch and Tea Parties happen once a month on a Thursday in the Jubilee Hall. They are free for anyone in the Oving District to attend. They offer a lovely homemade lunch of soup in the winter months and then an afternoon tea the rest of the year with a full Christmas meal in December. The meal was very well attended and everyone who came had a lovely time. If you would like to come along in January it is the 19th from 1-3pm, please ring June Milson: 07508 059955

You may or may not know that I am now working solo as your Community Warden. Gareth has moved on to pastures new. We worked together for the last 10 years and used to joke that we saw more of each other than our own families, so I do miss him, but I wish him well in his new job. He did come back and with his dad cooked the Christmas dinner that I mentioned earlier which was lovely of him.

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BOOK CLUB REPORT



Occasionally we abandon our modern novels and choose a classic such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's masterpiece "The Great Gatsby". This tale of rich American "bright young things" of the 1920's is told by Nick, who lives in a modest house, next door to Gatsby's huge mansion where he gives fabulous parties. But what is Gatsby? Philanthropist, entrepreneur, or crook? As the narrative progresses, after a terrible accident, Nick realises that his contemporaries are self-seeking, only caring about themselves, and their life-style. A bitter-sweet novel that ideally captures the hedonistic frenzy of that era.

"The Couple at No. Nine" by Claire Douglas is a good old-fashioned murder mystery. Tom and Saffy want an extension to their idyllic Cotswold cottage. But when the builders dig up two skeletons in the garden, we have a series of events leading the reader through the usual maze of people and incidents until the mystery is resolved. The reader is kept as much on edge as the skilfully drawn characters. The story is ingeniously plotted right to the end. We all enjoyed this novel perhaps worthy to stand with Ruth Rendell's output.

How different is "Mornings in Jenin" by Susan Alulhawa. We were all moved by this tale of a family caught up in the Israeli-Palestine wars. Told through the eyes of Amal, a young girl brought up in the refugee camp at Jenin, which still exists today, the action moves between past, present and future. When Israeli soldiers sack their village, all are forced to flee. We are told about some of their lives, before and after. This is war from the viewpoint of innocent Palestinians, which we hear little about here in England. The horrors and scars of war never leave the persons in this story, even if they do find eventual happiness. A complex novel and a compelling read, rooted in fact, although the content is fiction.

Last year we read "Old Filth" by Jane Gardam, about the lawyer working in Hong Kong, Edward Feathers, his associates' his enemies, his travels. "The Man in the Wooden Hat" takes up the story of his wife, Betty, of whose early life we would have liked to hear more, since she was born in China and survived a Japanese internment camp. We meet her as she is about to marry Edward. She is warned by his enigmatic friend Albert Ross never to leave him. (Albert is the man in the hat - we think!). Betty and Edward are childless, she is drawn towards his rival, and his son, Harry. Betty's life is devastated when Harry dies, and she decides to leave Edward, intending to tell him next day. But before she can do so, she dies planting tulip bulbs in the garden so he never knows. Of necessity there is repetition between the two books but the wife's point of view sustains our interest.

Continued over page

BOOK CLUB REPORT - continued

Opinions were divided about "Lean, Fall, Stand' by Jon McGregor. It is not an easy book to read, some thought it too slow at times, or more explanation was required. Three Antarctic scientists are caught in a blizzard. Tom dies, but Luke and the older leader Robert "Doc" Wright are rescued in the nick of time. Doc has suffered a stroke, so the second half of the novel is all about his rehabilitation back in England. Never a very articulate man, he must now learn to speak properly, and motivate himself. His wife, Anna, stands by him through frustrations and disappointments, as does the club he joins. The novel is beautifully expressed, and tugs at the heartstrings as Robert achieves mastery.

I am not going to divulge the plot of "Both of You" by Adele Parks, because the story depends on sudden surprises coming upon the reader. If you like a cleverly plotted mystery, all twists and turns, paths that only lead to dead ends, and piles of "red herrings", then most of us thoroughly endorse this book

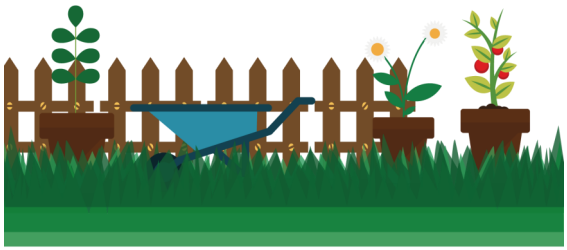
Beryl Lang

Garden Safari / Open Days Interest?

Some years ago, pre-COVID, there were some Garden Safaris that took place in Oving Village. I believe that these may have been organised as part of a fundraiser for the Church. With a significant amount of effort going into the organisation and only minimal profit these fell by the wayside.

If anyone in the parish would be interested in opening their garden for a few hours in the summer, or to get involved with the organising, either as a fundraiser or simply as a community event, please email:

ovingdistrictnews@outlook.com



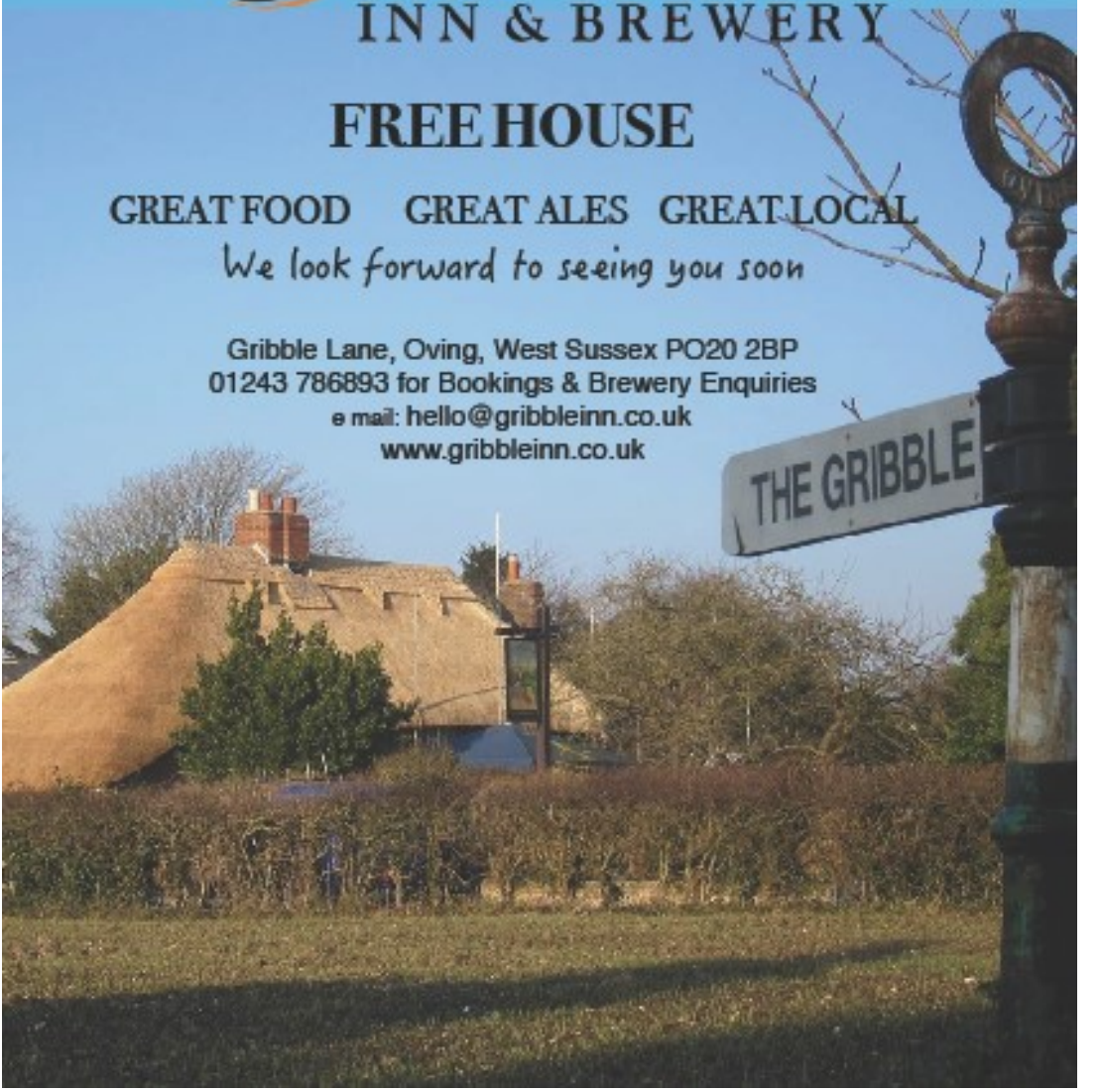
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General information
For crime prevention tips and details of your Area and Street Coordinators, see the Parish website www.**ovingcommunity.org.uk**

Down on the Farm

I am asked one question more than any other by my non farming friends these days, and its nothing to do with climate change, Brexit or why I think sheep are pretty but fundamentally stupid. The question it seems on everyone's lips is "what do I think of Clarkson's farm"?

I loved it and can't wait for the second series to start! I'm no petrol head so Top Gear largely passed me by and thus I was never one of Jeremy Clarkson's acolytes – until now and JC has become universally popular with farmers for many reasons. First, we could laugh at his mis-takes and pretend that we never did anything hopeless enough that would have incurred the wrath of a Kaleb equivalent. (One of my classics was in the field, now a gravel pit, alongside Drayton House, when I was 16. The night club Martines had just opened, and they had installed a smart new wire fence around the perimeter of the grounds. I was cultivating the field and, being 16, I was far more interested in Radio 1 than what was happening in the field. I came to an end of a 'run', lifted the cultivator up, turned the tractor around, dropped the cultivator back in the field, and carried on my merry way. It was only when I was the other end of the field, some 400 metres later, that I bothered to look around and realised that I had hooked the brand new fence with my cultivator and dragged about 100 metres of it up the field. I'm not sure I got paid that week!).

As farmers we can also identify with all of JC's trials and tribulations, but also the passion for the job that gradually takes him over, despite those trials and tribulations, or even maybe because of them.

But I tip my hat to JC primarily because he has brought farming alive to so many people and has done so with humour whilst showing farming 'warts and all'. Everyone, farming or not, will now know not to buy a tractor too big for their barn (though everyone now also thinks that all farmers have Lamborghini tractors. I have genuinely never seen one on any farm, ever, and if we had that sort of cash to blow on a new tractor then, here at Woodhorn, Sam and Ben would never forgive me if I didn't buy a John Deere).

JC's TV series has, perhaps inadvertently, led to a public conversation about every aspect of farming from conservation, soil health and how cows and sheep can jump the highest fences if the mood takes them, to the power of the supermarkets, national food security and why every farm needs a Gerald and a Kaleb. I genuinely overheard a conversation in a cafe about Clarkson's farm when someone stated that they never understood how much the weather affected farmers until they saw this series. Given how that's how most of us farmers bore anyone who is listening to death, this was surprising to hear!

You may see some activity along the east side of Colworth Lane soon, as we carry out the next phase of our hedge and tree planting plans. Over years we have literally planted thousands of trees and miles of hedgerows. This latest phase will add another mile of hedgerow.

Continued over page

A friend asked me how do we make money from hedges? We don't of course and it is an expensive hobby which is why we do this in phases. However, it is part of our commitment to the flora and fauna on the farm and is one small but important part of our carbon net zero strategy.

Planting hedges illustrates the irony (some might say lunacy) of how the politics of national food policy has ebbed and flowed over so many years. During WW2 my grandfather (William Pitts) was, like all farmers at the time, visited by the War Agricultural Executive Committee (which came to be known as the 'War Ags'). The members of the War Ags included civil servants, local farmers and members of the Women's Institute and had the power to take farms away from farmers who were considered to be farming inefficiently. Grandfather would have been ordered to remove hedges due to the desperate need to increase food production as the whole population faced war time rationing. Food shortages continued into the 1950s and 1960s and farmers were then *paid* by the government to remove hedges. In the 1970s, after we joined the EEC, policy designed to increase food self-sufficiency was too successful and we ended up with a surplus (grain mountains etc). Over the last 30 years we have, rightly in my opinion, become more aware of the need to protect the environment as part of a sustainable food policy. Planting hedges is back in vogue! But Covid, Ukraine and the fragility of a free trade globalised word, has also made everyone aware of the need to produce more at home of the basics we need to live, especially energy and food. It feels like something of a full circle, and I hope in our small way we can find the right balance at Woodhorn.

As I write, we are approaching Christmas. Our cows are lovely, gentle, and highly educated, but are completely faithless and so do not recognise Christmas. This is a shame given they live in a cow shed, have a manger, and are looked after by three wise men (well two wise men and a wise lady to be precise). The secular stance of the herd means that Graham, Tracy and Tim have to work pretty much as normal through the Christmas and New Year period, which is 'part of the job' but a tough call nevertheless.

We all celebrated the first frosts this year in December – about two months late by my reckoning. Frosts are one of nature's tools that we are reliant upon to kill off bugs and flies that can challenge the cows and see off the aphids that spread a very damaging virus in our autumn sown crops of wheat and oats. Conventional farmers can spray with an insecticide to kill aphids but being Organic, we rely entirely on frosts.

We are now on course (though a year behind schedule) to launch our milk vending project outside Oving Jubilee Hall in the late spring. All being well, that will be the subject of my next 'down on the farm' article.

By the time you read this Christmas will be a memory, so may I wish everyone a peaceful 2023

John Pitts 24.12.22



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Oving Community Garden

2022 has been a great year for the Community Garden. On Scarecrow Day in May, many people were able to see what we have achieved and our plans for the future. As a result of the success of scarecrow day, we now have some new friends at the Community Garden and we still have room for many more!



We have had a busy year, all the beds were planted in spring with a selection of veg, fruit and flowers. In July we received a kind greenhouse donation, and we built a fruit cage for next year. At the end of the growing season, we increased the size of our composting area by building a much larger composting bin.

At harvest time in September, there were plenty of carrots, courgettes, sweetcorn, onions, strawberries and more! Anything that wasn't needed was put on the 'help yourself' bench located next to our shed.



We continue to meet on the 1st Saturday of every month at 9.30am. The garden is open to all the community all the time, so please feel free to have a wander and pick some fresh produce or pull a weed. If things are looking like they need to be eaten, then please help yourselves, we only ask you to be considerate of others.

As always, we repeat our mantra! All are welcome, adults and children, no experience required! Come and see what we are up to! We hope to see you soon for some digging – bring your gloves!

Duncan Marston

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Oving Diamond Jubilee Park



The equipment in the recreation ground is in need of replacement. Upon annual inspection, the safety matting is not at current UK safety specification and other parts of the area are damaged. The Parish council is currently acquiring quotes to replace the necessary equipment and remains vigilant to ensure that your children remain safe under your supervision when using the playground. Rest assured that new equipment is on its way.



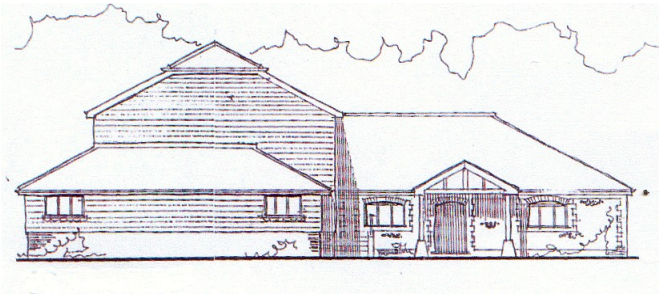
In the spring work started on the pump track for younger children to play on with their scooters and bikes. The track was originally funded and organised by the OCAG volunteers (Oving Community Action Group) over 10 years ago but had fallen into disrepair and was rarely used. The upgrade was proposed by James Hackman in the village and has been named after him! The 'Hackman Track' was finished on time and within budget with thanks to AJS Groundworks. A big thanks also goes to Keith Goacher who maintains the grass around the track and on the recreation ground. Many people have commented how good the area now looks.



Please remember to be mindful of others when using and enjoying any of the public services and amenities provided through the Parish Council. Ours is a small community and we need to look after each other and our environment.

Here's to a happy and enjoyable 2023.

Duncan Marsden



HELLO AND WELCOME TO NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE HALL

Happy New Year!

I am delighted to be able to report excellent progress in 2022. We held a very successful free **Summer Jamboree,** with the highlight being a children's entertainer, a **Quiz Night** in October and a **Christmas Fayre** in early December. There were over 20 stalls, music and mulled wine, with profits split between the Church, the Friends of the Church and the Jubilee Hall.

Other one-off events were a **Wreath Making** session, a **Christmas Carols Choir**, in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice and a **Shirley Sings** disco evening. Shirley kindly donated the profits to the monthly tea parties. In addition, our regular exercise, dog training and other classes were well attended and we have hosted many parties and celebrations.

Looking ahead, there is a **70's Disco** on 21st January and, on 4th March, a **Vintage and Burlesque evening**, featuring local entertainment celebrity Dawn Gracie and her entourage. This promises to be a tantalising evening of glamour and sparkle. In addition, a third party is organising a **Wedding Fayre** on 19th March – a great chance to showcase the Hall. Please spread the word.

We are pleased to have Leonie Lewis-Hall as a new trustee and are **always** looking for more talent to join the management team.

Oving Parish Council helped fund our new doors and has also agreed to provide a grant to enable us to renovate the gent's toilets. This is great news and will complete our project to refurbish all our toilets.

In these difficult times, I am so glad that we are able to provide a warm and safe environment for the Chill & Chat Café and Harvest UK visitors and our regular tea parties. Thank you to the organisers and **all of you** who have contributed in one way or another.

Anne-Marie Eastwood **annemariedutchy@gmail.com**

EVENTS AT YOUR VILLAGE HALL

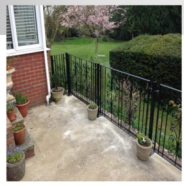




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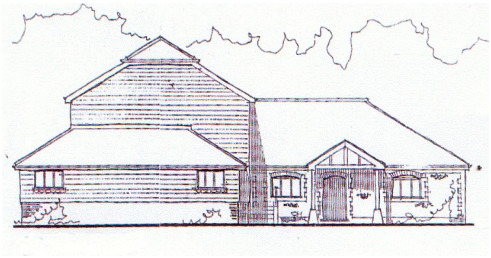
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For **viewings** contact either Nick or Doug on 07875 491031

Regular weekly events

Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Sunday ++	10.00 - Noon	Raventor Re-enactment Group **Winter months only**	
Monday	9.30 – 11.30	Art Group	Barbara 01243 266193
	11.45 – 17.30	Dog Training	Veronica 01243 827550
	18.00 - 1900	Pilates	Petra petrapilates1@gmail.com
Tuesday	8.30 – 9.30	Core and Floor	Book: www.raft.fitness
	09.30 – 11.30	Food Pantry (Chat and Chill cafe) **Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday**	Michelle Stone 07872 052158
	14.00 – 16.30	Oving Indoor Bowls	
	17.15 – 21.00	Dog Training	Veronica 01243 827550
Wednesday	10.30 – 11.30	Pilates	Rachel 07973 632412
	Afternoon	**AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**	
	18.30 – 21.00	Youth Club	Gareth Jones 07768 202356
Thursday	9.30 – 10.15	Zumba Gold	Mel Winstanley 07824 668368
***	14.00 - 1600	Village Tea Parties **Once a month**	June Milson 07508 059955
	18.00 – 21.00	Smart Cheer Group	Ben 07955 607304
Friday	10.15 – 11.15	Pilates	Rachel 07973 632412
	Afternoon/ evening	**AVAILABLE FOR HIRE** Yoga once a month 19.00 – 21.00	
Saturday	ALL DAY	**AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**	

++ Raventor meet on Sunday mornings during the winter months only

***The Parish Tea parties take place once a month on a Thursday but we can work any other Thursday bookings round this community event

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A Note from the Rectory

What happens after Christmas?



It seems strange writing an article for the Parish Magazine so soon after Christmas. After all the preparation for church services and the family Christmas gathering, these days after Christmas can feel a bit strange. What happens next?

I know that in my house, there will be a gap where the Christmas tree currently sits. The presents will be put away. The last bit of turkey will be used up. Christmas will have disappeared.

But there is something that will always remain, the small child that is the reason we celebrate. He remains in our lives no matter what. Remaining to shine a light into our lives when the darkness of the world overtakes us. To shine a light into our lives when the world seems beyond hope. To shine a light into our lives when the joy of Christmas is over.

At St Andrew's, we will hear about Jesus's early life and how He came to fulfil His destiny. And we will hear about the miracles that showed the world the love that He has for humankind. And as the month pass by, we will hear of His sacrifice on the cross so that humankind is released from the tyranny of sin and death.

If you would like to explore the life of Christ that He came to earth to fulfil, you are most welcome to join us at 11:00 each Sunday. We are a small but welcoming community that comes together to hear the Good News that Christ brings to each one of us.

Please contact me through our church website (www.ovingchurch.co.uk) if you have any questions about our church community.

May god bless you and all that you care for.
Revd Trevor Marshall

Useful local contact details

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chair@ovingcommunity.org.uk

Vice Chair
Stephen Quigley
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